

Acquisition Update

Your Source For Federal Health Care Contract Information

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Please note:

The next edition will cover July-December.

We would like your comments! What topics do you want covered? What information do you want to see? Please contact:

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Department of Veterans Affairs

Congress Moves Veteran Entrepreneurs to the Front of the Line in VA Acquisitions

By: Scott Denniston, Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization

On December 22, 2006, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-461, The Veterans Health Care, Benefits and Information Technology Act of 2006. P.L. 109-461, effective June 20, 2007, is applicable only to VA prime and subcontracting opportunities and will have a significant effect on how VA conducts its acquisitions. Public Law 109-461:

- Establishes a set-aside and sole-source award mechanism for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB).
- Establishes a clearly defined contracting preference (hierarchy) for VA acquisitions, moving SDVOSBs to the head of the line, followed by VOSBs then Section 8(a) contractors and HUBZone contractors.
- Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish prime and subcontracting goals for SDVOSBs and VOSBs (the SDVOSB goal cannot be less than the 3 percent required by P.L. 106-50).

- Requires establishment of a mechanism to ensure subcontracts awarded by VA prime contractors go to eligible VOSB and SDVOSB concerns.
- Requires registration of SDVOSB and VOSB firms in VA's Vendor Information Pages (VIP) Database (www.vip.vetbiz.gov).
- Requires VA to verify ownership and control of the company and the status of veteran owners. Providing ownership and control information to VA is optional and veterans may continue to sell to VA without verifying their status. However, participation in the set-aside and subcontracting programs is limited to eligible businesses registered in VIP.
- Provides continued VOSB and SDVOSB status for surviving spouses of veteran entrepreneurs for up to 10 years under certain circumstances.
- Provides for debarment from VA acquisitions of those firms willfully misrepresenting their status.

- Requires GAO annually assess VA's VOSB contracting program and report findings to Congress

Much work remains to get this law implemented in VA by June 20, 2007. The implementing VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) must be published for public comment. VA must acquire authority from the Office of Management and Budget for new data to be collected on the VetBiz.gov VIP Database as well as publish a revision to the Privacy Act Notice that governs the database.

As we work in the direction of implementation, we will be educating and training the VA workforce and industry about these important changes. Now that veterans are being put to the front of the line for VA acquisitions, we have a significant opportunity to show the rest of the Federal community that VA is truly the leader in contracting with SDVOSBs and VOSBs. Thank you for your continued support of America's small businesses, particularly our veteran entrepreneurs!

Fiscal Year 2006 Socioeconomic Accomplishments – Thanks for the Numbers!!

By Scott F. Denniston

Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

We're about to close the books on FY 2006's socioeconomic accomplishments and VA's numbers are impressive. VA exceeded all of the statutory socioeconomic goals for FY 2006.

In FY 2006, VA reported expenditures totaling approximately \$10.3 billion. The chart below shows our socioeconomic breakdown.

Most notably here, is the VA, for the first time ever, exceeded the 3 percent statutory goal for SDVOSBs and we posted 6.49 percent against the 7 percent VOSB goal set by the Secretary. Although numbers are not available for other departments, we have every reason to believe the VA continues to be the leader in these important categories. You will recall in FY 2005, VA was the leader among major Federal contracting activities (those organizations reporting

expenditures of \$1 billion or more) with 2.15 percent in accomplishments in the SDVOSB category.

Although VA did not meet the Section 8(a) Small Disadvantaged Business Goal of 5 percent, VA did meet the statutory goal of 5 percent for small disadvantaged businesses. There is no statutory goal assigned to Section 8(a), the VA goal is assigned by the Secretary. When combined with the small disadvantaged business accomplishments, VA spent \$910.1 million (8.85%) with small disadvantaged businesses, including Section 8(a) firms. All Section 8(a) firms are considered small disadvantaged businesses, all small disadvantaged businesses are not certified by the Small Business Administration as Section 8(a) firms. VA is required to track its small disadvantaged business accomplishments broken down by Section 8(a) and all other small disadvantaged businesses. Section 8(a) is a procurement mechanism and accomplishments shown in this category represent acquisitions conducted using the Section 8(a) Program.

Given the performance demands and many competing interests faced by VA acquisition professionals, the FY 2006 accomplishments are noteworthy and greatly appreciated by small businesses. Through its procurement dollars, VA has once again shown why it is the chief advocate for America's veterans!

Category	Secretary's Goal	Accomplishment
Small Business	25%	29.45% (\$3.03 billion)
Small Disadvantaged Business	4%	4.93% (\$507.4 million)
Section 8(a) Small Disadvantaged Business	5%	3.92% (\$402.7 million)
Women-Owned Small Business	5%	5% (\$513.1 million)
Veteran-Owned Small Business	7%	6.49% (\$666.8 million)
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned	3%	3.39% (\$348 million)
HUBZone Small Business	3%	3.28% (\$336.9 million)

Commercial Items Contracts Now Include Time-and-Materials and Labor-Hour Type Contracts

By William Cox, Acquisition Assistance Division

Effective February 12, 2007, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) expressly authorized the use of time-and-materials (T&M) and labor-hour (LH) contracts for commercial services under specified conditions. Before this change, commercial services were limited to firm-fixed-price (FFP) and firm-fixed-price with economic price adjustment (EPA) type contracts when using FAR Part 12 procedures, and services based on hourly rates were generally excluded. The FAR definition of commercial services now does not prohibit services sold based on hourly rates without an established catalog or market price for a specific service performed or a specific outcome to be achieved.

FAR Part 12 now provides specific conditions for the use of T&M and LH commercial contracts, including the condition that no T&M or LH commercial contract be issued sole-source. These types of contracts may be used under a contract awarded using competitive procedures (e.g., the procedures in FAR 6.102, the set-aside procedures in FAR 19.5, or competition conducted in accordance with Part 13); the procedures for other than full and open competition in FAR 6.3 provided the agency receives offers that satisfy the Government's expressed requirement from two or more responsible offerors; or, the fair opportunity procedures in FAR 16.505, if placing an order under a multiple award delivery-order contract.

In addition, the contracting officer must execute a determination and findings (D&F) for the contract that no other contract type authorized by this subpart is suitable, and the contract or order must include a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. The contracting officer can only change the ceiling price after executing another D&F that states it is in the best interest of the procuring agency to change the ceiling price.

Any D&F for these types of contracts shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of the market research conducted;

(2) Establish that it is not possible at the time of placing the contract or order to accurately estimate the extent or duration of the work or to anticipate costs with any reasonable degree of certainty;

(3) Establish that the requirement has been structured to maximize the use of firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment contracts (e.g., by limiting the value or length of the time-and-material/labor-hour contract or order; establishing fixed prices for portions of the requirement) on future acquisitions for the same or similar requirements; and

(4) Describe actions planned to maximize the use of firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment contracts on future acquisitions for the same requirements.

When an indefinite-delivery contract is awarded with services priced on a time-and-materials or labor-hour basis, contracting officers shall, to the maximum extent practicable, also structure the contract to allow issuance of orders on a firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment basis. Contracting Officers are required to execute D&F's for T&M and LH types of contract for each order placed under those contracts. If an indefinite-delivery contract only allows for the issuance of orders on a time-and-materials or labor-hour basis, the D&F for the type of contract shall be executed to support the basic contract and shall also explain why providing for an alternative firm-fixed-price or fixed-price with economic price adjustment pricing structure is not practicable. The D&F for this contract shall be approved one level above the contracting officer, and for any D&F's that extend the performance period beyond five years, the head of the contracting activity must first approve the D&F.

Many of the readers of this article may assume that these changes to the D&F requirements for the type of contract do not affect them because they issue most or all of their T&M and LH commercial services requirements through orders under Federal Supply Schedules. This assumption may not be correct if the Federal Supply Schedule contract includes the Part 12 clauses. Before excluding the appropriate elements

for the D&F described above, it is recommended to verify the governing basic Federal Supply Schedule contract clauses before issuing a T&M and LH order.

The FAR change also includes a revision to FAR 52.212-4, Contract Terms and Conditions - Commercial Items, which now prescribes Alternate I for inclusion in solicitations and contracts for T&M and LH commercial services. Alternate I replaces the following paragraphs in this clause:

- (a) Inspection/Acceptance
- (e) Definitions
- (i) Payments
- (l) Termination for the Government's convenience

T&M contracts comprise the highest contract type risk to the Government. As such, they should only be used when it is not possible at the time of award to estimate accurately the extent or duration of the work or to anticipate costs with any reasonable degree of confidence. Also, restricting the use of T&M contracts is consistent with the requirements for non-commercial T&M contracts. Contractors are generally only required to use "best efforts" to accomplish the desired results within the established ceiling price on both commercial and non-commercial T&M contracts as opposed to FFP contracts which require contractors to accomplish stated results within the fixed price. Although contractors are under less budgetary pressure to perform under a T&M than a FFP contract, it is not appropriate to hold contractors to the same standards used on FFP contracts. Accordingly, T&M/LH contracts are only authorized when no other contract type is suitable.

What's in a Name?

*By: Justina Hamberg, Procurement Analyst, OA&MM,
Acquisition Assistance Team (049A5D)*

Mercedes-Benz. BMW. Porsche. You know what these companies sell. Their name says it all. You can hear someone whisper even part of their name – Mercedes – and your mind starts to wander off in a dream...That's why these companies spend a lot of

time, money, and effort to make sure you know their name.

But as a Government buyer, you're not allowed to buy a brand name product without a really good reason. So what's a "good" reason? What's good enough? How do we know whether our customer's reason for specifying a brand name product is justified? The reason must be tied to the Government's *minimum* needs. Pure and simple. Taxpayers wouldn't like it if GSA bought cars from Mercedes-Benz for civil servants like you and me to drive while we're on travel. Wouldn't it be nice though...? Nice doesn't cut it. Taxpayers envision this brand as a luxury car maker and they would storm the Hill in a flash and demand to know why their taxes are being spent on luxury cars. They might understand that a rental car is needed when we go on travel. But we just need a basic car to get us from point A to point B – that's the minimum need. So, a car with four wheels, clear windows, steering wheel...that should do it. Ok, we might need brakes too. All kidding aside, an inexpensive car could fit our minimum needs, but a Mercedes-Benz? How would we rationalize our minimum needs to require only that brand? The taxpayers aren't the only ones that would question this; other car manufacturers would likely protest the brand name only specification.

I think most folks would agree that we don't need a Mercedes-Benz for general use. But there are other examples of brand name only specifications that are commonly solicited because the brand name products have so dominated the market (or they've successfully branded their products in our mind) that we think of them almost as if they're generic products. In fact, some brand name products have become part of our every day vocabulary. For example, have you ever asked someone to make a Xerox copy? Have you ever thrown a Frisbee or used a Kleenex? Here's a new one – have you googled something today? Even when a brand name product has attained the status of a generic word, in the world of federal procurement, that brand name product is still *a product peculiar to one manufacturer*.

Therefore, for example, a solicitation for personal computers that includes a specification for an Intel™ processor is still subject to FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer. The personal

computer may not have been specified as a Dell™ computer, but an Intel™ processor is a microprocessor specified by brand name only. That specification excludes microprocessors manufactured by other sources. Why wouldn't a microprocessor from other sources (e.g., Advanced Micro Devices) meet the Government's need? Do we have the need for performance characteristics that only an Intel™ processor could meet and if so, what are those characteristics? Do we have market research to support that Intel's processor is the only brand with the needed performance characteristics? Do we have market research to support that no other brand name product can be modified to meet the performance characteristics? These are the types of questions that we should be able to address in our contract documentation to support a brand name only specification. If we haven't addressed these questions at all, then we don't have a valid justification for the brand name only requirement. Also, if we don't have market research to support our conclusion that only an Intel™ processor can meet our needs, that specification may not be justified and it may be construed as unduly restricting competition.

So, when you receive a brand name only requirement from your customers without any rationale, ask some questions to see if there is a true need for the brand name requirement. Try to have your customers write down their answers to your questions. That will help them start writing the documentation needed to support the brand name only requirement. Depending on the dollar value and the method of procurement, the documentation may need to be a formal justification in the format prescribed by FAR 6.302-1(c), FAR 13.501(a), and FAR 8.405-6(g). For open market procurements, these formal justifications are sole-source justifications. For buys on the Federal Supply Schedule, the formal justifications are limited sources justifications. When drafting the brand name justification or the documentation, just remember the basic principle in FAR 11.105, Items Peculiar to One Manufacturer, which is that we should not write our requirements for a particular brand name unless it is essential to meet our Government needs.

For further reading, click on the following links:

Office of Procurement Policy (OFPP) memoranda:

(http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/brand_name_specs.pdf) on April 11, 2005

(http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/memo/2006_brand_name.pdf) on April 17, 2006

Federal Register, FAR Case 2005-037, Implement OMB Policy on the Use of Brand Name Specifications

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2006_register&position=all&page=57357

(Note: Once an FR page has been retrieved, use the arrows or input box to go to other FR pages)

The interim rule published in the Federal Register implemented the posting requirement of the two OFPP memoranda. I encourage you to read the following FAR references as they have changed:

FAR 5.102(a)(6)

FAR 6.302-1(c)

FAR 8.402

FAR 8.405-1(c) and (d)

FAR 8.405-6

FAR 8.406-1

FAR 11.105

FAR 13.105(c)

FAR 13.106-1 and -3

FAR 13.501

On The Green

New Executive Order Expands and Strengthens Federal Green Purchasing Program

By Barbara Matos, Environmental Program Manager, Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management

On January 24, 2007, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order (EO) 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management." This order revokes, consolidates, and builds upon a series of orders issued between 1998 and 2000 that mandated federal agency compliance

with a wide range of environmental, energy efficiency, and vehicle fleet management requirements. Among other things, EO 13423 sets goals for the acquisition and procurement of recycled content, energy efficient, biobased, and environmentally preferable products and services that are at least as stringent as, or go beyond, prior EO goals and statutory requirements.

In a press release announcing the new order, the Federal Environmental Executive (FEE), Edwin Piñero, noted that the goals of the new EO would result, in part, in “in better management of our environmental and energy footprint through the expanded procurement of environmentally sound products and services, such as the growing area of biobased products.” As a result, Mr. Pinero pointed out, federal agencies will be more efficient and effective in meeting their respective missions, while at the same time leading by example in the areas of environmental and energy stewardship, and helping to catalyze the marketplace.

EO 13423 expands the Federal Green Purchasing Program by making mandatory the purchase of environmentally preferable products and services (EPP). The order also raises to the level of a presidential directive two previously voluntary sustainable practice programs, electronics stewardship and sustainable design/green buildings, which include significant green purchasing elements. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a signatory to both the Memorandum of Understanding on Promoting the Sustainable Environmental Management of Federal Electronic Assets, and on Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings, the elements of which have been adopted by the new EO.

In the near future, the Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) are expected to issue detailed instructions implementing EO 13423. The instructions will have the same effect as the order and will make clear that the requirements to purchase green products and services apply to all types of acquisitions, including purchases made with the government purchase card, and purchases of construction, transportation, janitorial, and operation and maintenance services. The OFPP instructions will address agency

implementation of the currently disparate components of the Federal Green Purchasing Program as a single, integrated plan.

Following are excerpted highlights of the acquisition and procurement requirements of the new order. The italicized portion below the requirement reflects the intent of the implementing instructions.

- Section 2(d): The head of each agency shall: require in agency acquisitions of goods and services (i) use of sustainable environmental practices, including acquisition of biobased, environmentally preferable, energy-efficient, water-efficient, and recycled-content products, and (ii) use of paper of at least 30 percent postconsumer fiber content. The implementing instructions will:
 - *Make clear that the scope of the Federal Green Purchasing Program includes alternative fuel vehicles, alternative fuels, and non-ozone depleting substances. “Energy efficient products” includes both Energy Star® and FEMP-designated products, as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Low stand-by power provisions will also be addressed.*
 - *Require agencies to conduct pilot projects annually.*
 - *Add address acquisition of energy-related products as services (e.g., energy savings performance contracts), as well as energy efficient products.*
- Section 2(e): The head of each agency shall...reduce the quantity of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials acquired.....
- Section 2(h): The head of each agency shall, when acquiring an electronic product to meet its requirements, meets at least 95 percent of those requirements with an Electronic Product Environmental Analysis Too (EPEAT)-registered product, unless there is no EPEAT standard for such product....
- Section 3: The head of each agency shall (a) implement within the agency sustainable practices for (iv) acquisition...(vi) reduction or elimination

of acquisition...of toxic or hazardous chemicals.....

- Section 3: The head of each agency shall (e) ensure that contracts entered into after the date of this order for contractor operation of government-owned facilities of vehicles require the contractor to comply with the provisions of this order with respect to such facilities or vehicles to the same extent as the agency would be required to comply if the agency operated the facilities or vehicles.
- Section 3: The head of each agency shall (f) ensure that agreements, permits, leases, license, or other legally-binding obligations between the agency and a tenant or concessionaire entered into after the date of this order require, to the extent the head of the agency determines appropriate, that the tenant or concessionaire take actions relating to matters within the scope of the contract that facilitate the agency's compliance with this order.

For a copy of Executive Order 13423, visit the new Green Purchasing page on the Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management's Environmental Affairs – Greening VA Web site at:

http://www1.va.gov/oamm/recycle/ea_GreenPurchasing.cfm or http://vaww1.va.gov/oamm/recycle/ea_GreenPurchasing.cfm. Once issued, the implementing instructions will be posted here as well.

According to Mr. Piñero, “this is a timely step forward, building upon the many notable accomplishments of the Federal community.” VA is poised to take this step forward and is committed to minimizing its footprint on the environment through the purchase of environmentally preferable and energy efficient products and services.



Remember Earth Day...

April 22

Take action to promote good environmental stewardship.

JWOD Corner

VA Assistant Secretary for Management is the New VA Committee Member Appointed by the President

The Wagner-O'Day Act of 1938 created the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, the independent Federal agency that administers the socio-economic program that assisted people who were blind to find gainful employment on Federal contracts. The Act was later amended in 1971 to also include employment for people with severe disabilities, and to allow for the provision of services. Eleven Presidentially-appointed Committee members represent Governmental agencies (Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Education, Justice, Labor, Navy and Veterans Affairs, and the General Services Administration). The remaining four Committee members are private citizens knowledgeable about the employment problems of people who are blind or have other severe disabilities, including those employed by nonprofit agencies affiliated with the JWOD Program.

In May 2006 the President appointed Mr. Robert J. Henke to serve as VA's Committee Member, and in November 2006 he was sworn-in. As the Assistant Secretary for Management, Mr. Henke is responsible for the Department's budget (in excess of \$80 billion for fiscal year 2007), financial policy and operations, acquisition and materiel management, real property asset management, and business oversight. He serves as VA's Chief Financial Officer, Chief Acquisition Officer, and Senior Real Property Office.

Prior to his nomination by the President to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Management, Mr. Henke served as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) at the Department of Defense (DoD). In that capacity; he was the principal advisor to the DoD Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer and his duties involved a broad range of financial management responsibilities including development, justification and execution of DoD's budget, and the formulation of DoD-wide financial and accounting policy.

Mr. Henke served as a Professional Staff Member with the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations,

Subcommittee on Defense from 1999 to 2004 and as a Presidential Management Intern with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management & Comptroller) from 1997 to 1999. From 1993 to 1996 he was with General Electric Company, where he completed GE's Financial Management Program.

A Navy officer, Mr. Henke was mobilized as a reservist and deployed overseas for Operation Enduring Freedom and served on active duty in combat during Operation Desert Storm. Mr. Henke is a native of Chicago, Illinois. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government & International Relations from the University of Notre Dame and earned a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

The Committee has welcomed Mr. Henke in bringing his expertise to the table. He has eagerly accepted the challenge to work together to provide more opportunities for individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities that enable them to lead more productive and independent lives.

Departing VA JWOD Liaison Honored, New Liaison Named

Mr. Arthur East was honored by the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee) for his two-year term as the Department of Veterans Affairs JWOD Program liaison. Providing jobs to more than 46,000 people who are blind or have other severe disabilities, the JWOD Program is the single largest source of employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the United States. This award recognizes JWOD liaisons' significant contributions in creating employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities within their respective Federal agencies. JWOD liaisons are the front line, providing the Committee, National Industries for the Blind, NISH (serving people with a range of severe disabilities), and JWOD-participating nonprofit agencies with procurement news and information from their agencies. Liaisons also disseminate JWOD information throughout their organizations.

"Arthur's efforts have helped individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities to continue to have stable, meaningful employment," said Andrew Houghton, Committee Chairperson.

Mr. East is the Chief of Business Development & Marketing located in the Acquisition Program Management Division of Acquisition Resource Service, Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management (OA&MM) for the VA. From 2004 through 2005, he provided outstanding support for the JWOD Program in a variety of ways. He coordinated two consecutive VA-JWOD Vendor Day events during October's National Disability Employee Awareness Month. And in so doing, he increased awareness of the JWOD Program by providing VA customers with the opportunity to interact with JWOD-participating nonprofit agencies and learn more about their capabilities.

Taking over the role of VA JWOD Program Liaison from Mr. East is Ms. Sandra Hallmark, CPCM, Senior Procurement Analyst. Ms. Hallmark is located in the Acquisition Program Management Division of Acquisition Resource Service, OAMM. Ms. Hallmark recently left the United States Coast Guard Headquarters to rejoin the VA team in DC. Previously, Ms. Hallmark was a Contracting Officer with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and welcomes the opportunity once again to serve our veterans. Ms. Hallmark is responsible for reviewing and analyzing complex, unique and sensitive procurement and contracting issues involving the full spectrum of functions for which OAMM is responsible. Reviews include all contract types for supplies, services, information technology, research, enhanced sharing, management studies, construction, and all other health categories that ultimately benefit our veterans. In addition, as a department expert for acquisition issues, she expends the majority of her time providing guidance to the field covering the United States. She also participates as an advisory member to major systems brought by the departments, VHA, Veterans Benefits Administration, and National Cemetery Administration.

AbilityOne - New Name for Federal Procurement Program Employing People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act

AbilityOne will become the new name of a longstanding procurement program employing people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities under the auspices of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act. According to Andrew D. Houghton, Chairperson of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee), AbilityOne will replace the "JWOD" acronym, but does not change the underlying law, which was established to create job opportunities for people who are blind or severely disabled in the manufacture and delivery of products and services for the Federal Government. Today, this program is the single largest employer of people with severe disabilities in the United States, with more than 46,000 jobs nationwide.

The Committee, the independent Federal agency that administers the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, determined that the program's future success requires an enhanced ability to communicate its purpose and value to others. After a long-term, comprehensive study, the Committee decided that "AbilityOne" best fit its criteria for an effective name, and published its decision in the November 28, 2006 Federal Register. "AbilityOne has a much closer linkage to the program's workforce and capabilities, and alludes to the convergence of all participants into one umbrella program," said Mr. Houghton. "A stronger, more unified name will help us increase overall awareness, understanding and support for our program, and ultimately, to better fulfill our employment mission."

While the enabling Act remains important and its sponsors retain their place of honor in the program's history, the Committee believes that in the 21st century, it is necessary to build a program identity beyond the legislation in order to fulfill its mission, Mr. Houghton said. "We honor our founders by maximizing employment for people who are blind or severely disabled, and we believe that as AbilityOne, we are better positioned to succeed in our goals."

To ensure that all stakeholders familiar with the JWOD acronym are able to recognize and transfer their support to the new program name, the

Committee will continue to use Javits-Wagner-O'Day along with AbilityOne for a transition period of about 18 months. An unveiling of the new name and graphic design is expected in early Spring 2007. The well-recognized SKILCRAFT® brand will continue to be licensed and managed by National Industries for the Blind for a wide range of products furnished to the Government under Javits-Wagner-O'Day authority, and is not affected by the program name change.

The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is the independent Federal agency responsible for administering the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act. The JWOD Act creates employment for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the Federal Government. For more information, visit <http://www.jwod.gov>

For more information regarding the JWOD Program, please contact Stephanie Lesko, Public Affairs Specialist, Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, at slesko@jwod.gov or (703) 603-2146; or Sandra Hallmark, CPCPM, VA-JWOD Program Liaison, Senior Procurement Analyst, OAMM, VA Central Office at (202) 273-5044 or Sandra.Hallmark@va.gov.

New Products on Federal Supply Schedule

Major Supplier of Orthopedic Trauma Implants Now Under FSS Contract - Smith & Nephew (S&N), one of largest suppliers of these implants that are heavily used for war related injuries, offered to add their products to their existing FSS contract. Through extensive negotiating, the items were recently added to their FSS. No other supplier for these items has them under an FSS contract. For further details regarding this contract modification, please contact Jane Brusveen at (708) 786-7659 or Jane.Brusveen@va.gov.

New Product Under FSS Contract Ideal for Many Combat-Related Injuries - HMS Technologies, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business, was awarded a Federal Supply Schedule contract effective December 15, 2006 for products relating to intraosseous infusions. An intraosseous infusion is the process of injection directly into the bone marrow and is used to administer fluids and medication when existing methods of vascular access (the preferred IV route) is excessively time consuming or not possible. Clinical applications of the product include traumatic injuries and other medical conditions when immediate vascular access is required. Due to the nature of the product, the system is ideal for use in combat-related injuries. Questions regarding this contract may be directed to Giovanni Masson at (708) 786-5123 or via Giovanni.Masson@va.gov.

FSS Small Business Contract Awards

For complete information, go to the National Acquisition Center Contract Catalog Search Tool at www1.va.gov/nac or www.va.gov/vastorenac.

GSA Schedules E-library is also available at www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov/ElibMain/ElibHome.

621 I

Professional Medical Healthcare Services

	Contract# V797P-	Business Size	Effective Award Dates
Ready Tech-Go Inc. dba RTG Medical	7063A	VOSB	09/15/07-09/14/2011
MedTrust LLC	7068a	SDB/8a/VOSB	09/15/07-09/14/2011
Morgan Resources Inc.	7075A	VOSB	10/01/2006-9/30/2011
IHC LLC (Intermountain Hospital Consult)	7077A	VOSB	10/15/2006-10/14/2011
American Nursing Services, LLC	7098A	VOSB	03/15/2007-03/14/2012

65 II A

Medical Equipment and Supplies

	Contract# V797P-	Business Size	Effective Award Dates
Ashbrook Audiology	4934A	VOSB/HubZone	06/15/2006-06/14/2011
Viscot Medical LLC	4944A	VOSB	07/01/2006-06/30/2011
Alliant Enterprises LLC	4946A	VOSB	07/01/2006-06/30/2011
CFI Medical Solutions	4968A	VOSB	10/15/2006-10/14/2011
Cardiomedics Inc.	4972A	VOSB	10/25/2006-10/24/2011
E&S Associates dba National Hospital Svc	4977A	VOSB	12/01/2006-11/30/2011
Medical Instrument Specialties	4991A	VOSB	02/15/2007-02/14/2012
Gartner's Functional Footwear, Inc.	5006A	SDB/WOSB/ VOSB	04/01/2007-03/31/2012

65 Part VII

Invitro Diagnostics/Reagents

	Contract# V797P-	Business Size	Effective Award Dates
Audit Microcontrols, Inc.	5938X	VOSB	02/15/2007-02/14/2012

65IIF

Patient Mobility Devices

(Including wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, etc.)

	Contract # V797P-	Business Size	Effective Award Dates
Lasher Sport, LLC	3099M	VOSB	07/01/2006-06/30/2011
MHM Enterprises, LLC	3120M	VOSB	02/15/2007-02/14/2012

65 VA

X-Ray Equip/Supplies

	Contract # V797P-	Business Size	Effective Award Dates
X-Cel X-Ray Corporation	3112M	VOSB	09/01/2006-08/31/2011

For additional information on the above, contact the Federal Supply Schedule Service at (708) 786-5180

National Contract Small Business Contract Awards

For complete information, go to the National Acquisition Center Contract Catalog Search Tool at www1.va.gov/nac or www.va.gov/vastorenac.

Pharmaceuticals:	Contract # VA797-P-	Business Size	Award Date Effective Dates
Golden State Medical Supply, Inc.	0035	WOSB/VOSB	10/29/2006-10/28/2007
Prosthetics:	Contract # VA797-P-	Business Size	Effective Award Dates
Bruno Independent Living Aids	0031	VOSB	09/25/2006-09/24/2007

For additional information on the above, contact the National Contract Service at (708) 786-5250

New Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center Awards

Listed below are contracts with effective award dates of 07/01/06-02/28/07. For additional information, contact the VA Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center (DALC) at (303) 914-5180.

Product	Contract # V791P-	Business Size	Effective Award Dates	Contractor
Upper Extremity Myoelectric And Electric Prosthesis	0007	Small	01/01/2007	MHC Prosthetics, LLC
Upper Extremity Myoelectric And Electric Prosthesis	0008	Small	01/01/2007	Fillauer Companies, Inc.